



**Minutes of Board of School Trustees Meeting
February 12, 2024**

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024, at the Education Support Center. The following members were present: Mrs. Jenny Higbie, President; Mrs. Becky Gardenour, Vice-President; Mrs. Connie Baugh, Secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Galligan, Member; Mr. Thad Neafus, Member; and Mrs. Lee Ann Wiseheart, Member. Absent from the meeting was Mrs. Melanie Stumler Northup, Member. Also present, Dr. Travis Madison, Superintendent; Dr. Tom Brillhart, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Mr. Chris Street, Chief Financial Officer.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Higbie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Higbie asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS

Floyd County Elementary Basketball Championship Teams- Mr. Tony Duffy, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary, introduced Matt Denison, Superintendent for Floyd County Parks and Recreation. Mr. Denison has done a fabulous job over the years, the hard work and time he has put in, has been a great partnership with NAFCS schools.

Mr. Denison presented an overview of the basketball season and complimented the community volunteers. Grant Line Elementary Girls' team with Coach Mark Rob, stepped in and coached the last three seasons, leading the team to a county championship. Georgetown Elementary Boys' team with Coach David Stivers, has coached several years beyond coaching his son. The Floyd County Championship Tournament is a grand event to show the kids the importance of interscholastic sports in Floyd County. Mr. Denison introduced the players from the Grant Line Elementary Girls' and Georgetown Elementary Boys' 2024 Championship teams.

Mr. Denison concluded with compliments to Kurt Meyer, Middle School Athletic Director, for his dedication, assistance, and long hours at Scribner helping to make the tournament a success. It has been a great partnership.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Pursuant to Policy 0167.3, the School Board recognizes the value of public comment on matters of educational importance. Oral complaints regarding specific students and/or personnel will not be heard. School employees must contact their immediate supervisor on specific complaints relating to the terms and status of their employment prior to addressing the Board. To permit orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a forty-five (45) minute period for participation. Each statement made by a participant will be limited to three (3) minutes. Participants will not be granted additional time yielded from other participants. Any person wishing to speak must complete an online form found at www.nafcs.org. All speakers must sign up no later than 9:00a.m. on the day of the Board meeting.

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Note: Any Board member may remove any item for further discussion):

1. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2024 Regular Session; January 29, 2024 Special Session and Work Session;
2. Approval of Claims;
3. Approval of Payroll;
4. Approval of Monthly Transfers from Education Fund to Operations Fund;
5. Approval of Staffing Report;
6. Approval of Donations to Prosser Career Education Center;
7. Approval of Field Trip Requests from New Albany, Floyd Central, and Prosser;
8. Approval of Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Statement;
9. Approval of 457(b) Retirement Plan and Trust Update;
10. Approval of Agreement Between American Health Network of Indiana, LLC and Prosser;
11. Approval of Renewal of PowerSchool Solutions;
12. Approval of Perkins Reserve Grant for Prosser Career Education Center;
13. Approval of "Updated" Board Resolution to apply for HB1003 Flexibility Waiver;
14. Approval of Posting and Addition of PK-4 and 5-12 Curriculum Director Positions;
15. Appointment of Floyd County Library Board Trustee for NAFCS (4 Year Term);

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA *(continued)*:

16. Approval to Award Bid for Prosser Drainage and Site Improvements;
17. Approval of Grants for 2023-2024 School Year;
18. Approval of E-Rate Category 2 Network Project Proposal;
19. Approval of Agreement Between NAFCS and Hope Southern Indiana Inc.;
20. Approval of Agreement Between Hometown Ticketing and Floyd Central PTO;
21. Approval of Transfer for 2nd Quarter 2023-2024 SY Prosser Tuition for NAFCS Students;

Board members have received information regarding each item on the consent agenda, however, any member may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and discussed separately. Mrs. Wiseheart requested the Staffing Report and the Posting/Addition of PK-4 and 5-12 Curriculum Director Position be removed for separate votes. With no additional requests, Mrs. Wiseheart made a motion to approve all other remaining items on the consent agenda as presented and submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Baugh and carried unanimously with six votes in favor and one absence of Mrs. Northup, following a roll call vote.

- Minutes of January 8, 2024 Regular Session; January 29, 2024 Special Session and Work Session as presented;
- Claims beginning check #34045 through #34405, EFT beginning #15252 through and including #15368, and payrolls of 1-02-24, 1-12-24, and 1-26-24 in the total amount of \$6,250,243.15 as presented;
- Payroll of 1-02-24 in the amount of \$2,259,975.64; 1-12-24 in the amount of \$1,854,061.99; and 1-26-24 in the amount of \$2,136,205.52 as presented;
- Monthly Transfers from Education Fund to Operations Fund as presented;
- Donations to Prosser Career Education Center as presented;
- Field Trip Requests from New Albany, Floyd Central, and Prosser as presented;
- Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Statement as presented;
- 457(b) Retirement Plan and Trust Update as presented;
- Agreement Between American Health Network of Indiana, LLC and Prosser as presented;
- Renewal of PowerSchool Solutions as presented;
- Perkins Reserve Grant for Prosser Career Education Center as presented;
- “Updated” Board Resolution to apply for HB1003 Flexibility Waiver as presented;
- Appointment of Floyd County Library Board Trustee for NAFCS (4 Year Term) as presented;
- Award Bid for Prosser Drainage and Site Improvements as presented;
- Grants for 2023-2024 School Year as presented;
- E-Rate Category 2 Network Project Proposal as presented;
- Agreement Between NAFCS and Hope Southern Indiana Inc. as presented;
- Agreement Between Hometown Ticketing and Floyd Central PTO as presented;
- Transfer for 2nd Quarter 2023-2024 SY Prosser Tuition for NAFCS Students as presented;

Mrs. Galligan made a motion to approve the Staffing Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neafus and carried with five votes in favor, Mrs. Wiseheart abstained, and Mrs. Northup was absent.

Mrs. Galligan made a motion to approval the Posting and Addition of PK-4 and 5-12 Curriculum Director positions as presented and submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gardenour. Mrs. Wiseheart commented that, at this time, she could not support two of these positions. The motion carried with five votes in favor and one vote against. Voting in favor was Mrs. Gardenour, Mrs. Baugh, Mrs. Galligan, Mr. Neafus, and Mrs. Higbie. Voting against was Mrs. Wiseheart. Mrs. Northup was absent.

Mrs. Galligan commented on the significance of Prosser implementing a Plumbing and Pipefitting Program and the hopes of grant money being set aside to attract underserved people in those professions. Dr. Lanoue clarified that there are dollars in that grant specifically designed to attract non-traditional enrollments. There will be posters and videos created to target those populations. This will also allow for materials to be developed to encourage females and minorities to enter the construction workforce.

ACTION ITEMS:

Update NAFCS 2023-2024 School Calendar;

Dr. Madison presented the recommendation to update the 2023-2024 School Calendar with the change of April 8, 2024 from an early dismissal day to an all-day E-Learning Day.

Mrs. Galligan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Baugh, to approve the update to the NAFCS 2023-2024 School Calendar as presented. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried with six votes in favor. Mrs. Northup was absent.

Update NAFCS 2024-2025 School Calendar;

Dr. Madison presented the recommendation to update the 2024-2025 School Calendar to include Professional Development days on November 5, 2024; February 14, 2025; and April 25, 2025. The recent application for a Flexibility Waiver with the IDOE gives an opportunity and flexibility with the schedule to utilize instructional minutes rather than instructional days. This will allow for three professional learning days for teachers and staff. Parent-Teacher Conference days will also be moved up earlier in the school year to September. This will allow issues to be addressed earlier. The parent/teacher conference day would be Thursday, September 12, 2024. The Friday, September 13, 2024 will be professional development. Professional Development days will include the entire staff as an opportunity for additional training and team building.

Mrs. Gardenour made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Baugh, to approve the update to the NAFCS 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented. Mrs. Wiseheart commented on the benefit of all employees being included in the professional development. Mrs. Wiseheart asked the question if these days are optional for those hourly and how it will work. Dr. Madison explained that anyone that works with the kids will be involved and encourages everyone to be here like a regular day. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried six votes in favor. Mrs. Northup was absent from the vote. Updated calendars will be sent out and updated on the website.

Approve Recommendation of Empowering Education Solutions Proposal;

Dr. Madison presented the recommendation of a curriculum, instruction and initiative focus study. A curriculum study will enhance our educational quality. Our students deserve the highest caliber education and a curriculum audit will enable us to access the effectiveness and relevance of the current curriculum ensuring that it aligns with the state standards, promotes critical thinking, and that it meets the diverse needs of our student body. It will allow to make data informed decisions. A thorough initiative study will provide valuable insights into the efficacies of the existing programs. It will also identify areas of improvement. By analyzing the data on student performance, gathering student-teacher feedback, community input, administrator and Board input, we can make informed decisions that drive positive change and elevate the overall educational experience for the students. This commitment enhances our reputation within the community, it also fosters the culture of accountability, innovation and excellence among the students, faculty and staff. Making sure we are preparing for the future. A curriculum audit in this study will equip us with the insights and strategies needed to anticipate and respond to emerging trends, technologies, educational best practices and ensuring our students are well prepared for the success in the 21st Century workforce and beyond. Empowering Education Solutions (EES Innovations) will help facilitate the development of a Learning Prioritization Plan.

Mrs. Gardenour made a motion to approve the Empowering Education Solutions proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neafus. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Wiseheart commented on the recent approval of two curriculum director positions, asking when EES would start and how they will be working with the new positions created. Dr. Madison explained the firm could get started without those positions completed, they would be involved moving forward. The process will start with us sending EES a lot of information. We will send the pacing guides and curriculum currently in use. They will start scheduling visits to be on site. We can set it all up accordingly. There will be a lot of work that can go on while moving forward with the new positions.

Mrs. Galligan asked who will be the owner of the study? Dr. Madison explained it will be a living document with everyone involved being equally invested in. It will not be the old improvement plan that sits on a shelf.

Mrs. Higbie commented on being excited on many aspects of it and to be over the “initiative fatigue” being felt and giving everyone a voice. Mrs. Wiseheart asked if this would include Prosser’s curriculum. Dr. Madison confirmed the Prosser curriculum would be included. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously with six votes in favor. Mrs. Northup was absent from vote.

Approve Recommendation of Facilities Master Plan Study Proposal;

Dr. Brillhart presented the recommended proposal with Schmidt Associates for the completion of a 10-year Master Facility Plan study. The base fee for services to be rendered will be \$69,000.00, pending reimbursables, such as mileage, prints, additional specialty consultants, etc., we do not anticipate the total aggregate for the entire project to exceed \$100,000.00. Factors to be considered include the review of prior work and reports, the District goals, vision and promise, and current proven best practices. The assessment will include discussions on educational programs and a definition of the problem as evidenced by a comparison of future enrollments and planned capacities. The plan will also incorporate the costs contained in the Facilities Improvement Plan on file with the District. The final step will then be to evaluate the plan with the following long range planning criteria (degree of solution, program impact, future flexibility, and financial feasibility), and determine a recommended master plan. The product of this study will serve as a basis for future building renovations, modifications and/or construction, alternative facility usage and configuration with student placement structure to meet future projected population and educational needs. It will provide needed background data for architects in the design phase of any work that may subsequently be pursued. We anticipate the beginning of engagement to begin in early March by the creation of schedules, setting deadlines, organizing/identifying focus groups, and the sharing of proper point of contact for an efficient completion.

Mrs. Galligan asked if a demographic study will be included. Dr. Brillhart confirmed there will be a new demographic study conducted through Schmidt Associates.

Mrs. Gardenour made a motion to approve Schmidt Associates for the completion of a Master Facility Plan Study. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Galligan. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Gardenour commented on the positive experience and excellent work that Schmidt Associates has done in the past. Mrs. Wiseheart commented being in favor if this, moving forward the hiring of a Facilities Director in the near future, is the goal of that position to be one that we will not have to, every 10-15 years, hire a company and spend \$100K to tell us what our buildings are doing? Is there a way or a plan for us to keep up with it? Dr. Brillhart explained that exploring a concept like this periodically is needed because as educational needs change, we need to alter the functionality of the buildings. The biggest thing we want to gain from this comprehensive study is looking at the 2.7M Sq. Ft. of space we have in the district, and how we can use that space tomorrow better than we did yesterday. A director of facilities job is not to do that. We need the expertise, whether it is internally or a third party, come in to help with that targeting. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously with six votes in favor. Mrs. Northup was absent from vote.

Dr. Brillhart introduced the Schmidt Associate leadership team. Anna Marie Burrell will lead the Master Facility Plan. Kyle Miller, Project Manager. J.M. Chovan, Architectural Designer who works out of the Louisville office. Eric Broemel, Engineer, will be looking at the current facility improvement plan along with what has been done to meld it into what the schools and the space can become, making smart decisions, based on the programming of the building. Ben Bain is the Client Liaison and will be another resource for feedback. Ms. Burrell reviewed the process and timeline brochure that had been given to the Board.

Approve Highland Hills Middle School Natatorium Project Process;

Facilities Director, Bill Wiseheart, presented the recommendation to proceed with the Construction Manager as constructor (CMc) procurement method for the renovations to the Highland Hills Middle School Natatorium. Requesting approval to proceed with the RFP process and plan to bring back a proposal in March.

Mrs. Galligan made a motion to proceed with the Construction Manager as constructor (CMc) procurement method for renovations to the HHMS Natatorium, as presented and submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neafus. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Galligan questioned if swim lessons are still available and are other pool locations an option. Mr. Wiseheart explained the window of construction would be March to October 2025. If there is a delay, practices could be moved to New Albany. Mrs. Higbie complimented the timeline decision, allowing the swim season to be uninterrupted. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote with six votes in favor. Mrs. Northup was absent from vote.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Legislative Update:

Mrs. Gardenour shared updated legislative information from the February 6, 2024, ISBA 6th Annual State House Day meeting. ISBA is tracking 40 bills currently. Highlights included:

- SB146- Youth Employment concerning the increase of daily hours a minor who is age 14 or 15 may work on a school day from 3 hours a day to 6 hours a day. ISBA opposed.
- SB270- This law takes away the school board's right to determine an alternative use for the building based on local community needs. ISBA opposed.
- SB212- Removal of 7 day waiting period on Superintendent contract.
- SB1- Reading Skills, ISBA supported but is asking for a delay until 2026-2027 to allow for teachers to be trained.
- HB1073- Recommending a licensed behavioral interventionist and cameras in every classroom. ISBA opposed but may change to neutral based on the interpretation of the funding.
- HB1376- Controlled Project Referendums restricted to the Fall only. This was rejected and still being fought against.
- SB282- Amends the duties of an attendance officer and the state attendance officer. Requires the governing authority of a school corporation, charter school and nonpublic school that has at least one employee to establish a truancy prevention policy regarding certain students in kindergarten through grade 6.

Mrs. Gardenour commented on concerns with SB282 truancy issues. Her experiences in working with juvenile probation, child protective service worker and writing thousands of disposition reports, has not seen a family fined for truancy. Mrs. Gardenour is reaching out to Brittany Webster with DCS, Bill Briscoe, and Denise Beckwith with Juvenile Probation to get stats and information so she can possibly testify at the state house about this bill. Hoping that around the state of Indiana, everybody comes together on this. It is at the forefront, kids being truant. What can we do locally to make sure we get kids in school? This is not an easy solution. There is a lot of information needed and ISBA is working on that.

Mrs. Wiseheart commented on the importance of all board members being engaged at the local and state levels. Also, pointing out for the record, that Mrs. Gardenour is representing the ISBA when referring to "we oppose" or "we support". That does not represent the New Albany Floyd County School Board, that is the ISBA Board. Mrs. Wiseheart referred to speaking with Ed Clere, not getting replies back from other representatives, but his philosophy, in general, is being a supporter of school boards having local control. Mrs. Wiseheart supports what is currently being done in the schools, handling truancy. There are prosecutors involved as well, and supports the Floyd County probation department and DCS. We have staff and social workers that are going out to the homes trying to get kids into the buildings. More specifically, Mrs. Wiseheart does not share the same statement as Mrs. Gardenour in regards to the Amish in the SB146.

Mrs. Higbie gave thanks for the updated information and the encouragement to engage with local legislators.

MISCELLANEOUS:

There were no miscellaneous items brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the Board, Mrs. Galligan made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myra Willis, Recording Secretary